

REMARKS

This Amendment and Reply seeks to place this application in condition for allowance. In an Office Action dated January 11, 2005 (the "Office Action"), the Examiner issued a restriction requirement designating six groups, namely:

Group I, including claims 1-31 and 71-80;

Group II, including claims 1, 32-43, and 71-80;

Group III, including claims 1, 44-58, and 71-80;

Group IV, including claims 1, 59-80;

Group V, including claims 81-97; and

Group VI, including claims 98-101.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, claims 1-31 and 71-80, without traverse.

The non-elected claims (i.e., claims 32-70 and 81-101) have been canceled, without prejudice. Accordingly, those claims have been withdrawn from consideration in this application at this time. Applicants reserve the right to present the same or similar inventive subject matter in this application, at a later date, or in a divisional application.

In addition, Applicants herein present sixteen (16) new device claims (i.e., claims 102 to 117) to more fully protect the inventions described and illustrated in the application. These new claims are entirely consistent with Group I. As such, Applicants' new claims do not adversely impact the election made herein. Moreover, these claims are fully supported by the specification. No new matter has been added.

Notably, several of the elected claims have been amended to correct inadvertent typographical errors, to improve grammar and/or clarity, to more fully claim an invention, and/or to more definitely set forth the features of Applicants' invention(s). No new matter

has been added. Moreover, these amendments do not adversely impact the election made herein.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request entry of the foregoing amendments and consideration of the claimed invention on the merits. Applicants submit that all of the pending claims present patentable subject matter. Accordingly, allowance of all of the claims is respectfully requested.

It is noted that should a telephone interview expedite the prosecution of this application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Date: February 10, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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